GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5254
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005
ENCOURAGEMENT TO PUBLIC TO PAY IT.
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made efforts to encourage the public to pay the income tax as well as to file the income tax return;

(b) if so, the number of persons paid tax and file their return during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has authorized centers to collect income tax and other direct taxes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for simplification of tax procedures?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI. S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a)Yes sir.

(b)The number of taxpayers who filed return of income and paid income-tax

(if due) in the last three years is as under:

Financial Year	Number of returns of income filed (In lacs) #
2002-03	240.35
2003-04	233.54
2004-05	202.74

(Up to February 2005)
returns filed under One By Six Scheme have been excluded.

(c)Yes sir.

(d)Reserve Bank of India offices and designated branches of nationalized banks and certain banks promoted by public financial institutions are authorized to receive payments of income-tax and other direct taxes on behalf of the Government.

(e) The steps taken by the Government towards simplification of tax procedures include:

i. Simplification of return of income forms and introduction of single page Saral forms.
ii. Simplification of tax-payment challans and introduction of single copy challans for tax payment.
iii. Introduction of On-line Tax Accounting System (OLTAS) with effect from 1.6.2004 for on-line credit of tax-payments.
iv. Introduction of Electronic Clearing System (ECS) in certain cities for direct credit of refunds upto specified amount in the bank account of the taxpayer, at the option of the taxpayer.
v. Simplification of TDS returns, forms and procedures
vi. Electronic filing of TDS returns.
vii. e-filing of PAN application, on-line preparation of return, e-filing of return, etc.